

done. I wish Mark, Scott, and Coed Sports-wear all the best in the coming years.

WATER RIGHTS ARE PROPERTY RIGHTS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, on March 3, this House approved the Private Property Rights Act. The purpose of the legislation is to reaffirm clearly that the Federal Government cannot take or diminish the value of private property without paying just compensation.

Since March 3, opponents of private property rights have sought to discredit the legislation by claiming that it is intended to protect water subsidies. That is totally false.

The Private Property Rights Act would allow a farmer to seek compensation if he is denied the use of part of his farm because of Federal wetlands or endangered species laws. The act would provide exactly the same protection to a farmer who loses the use of part of his property because his water supply is reduced or eliminated by Federal environmental regulation. The compensation would be based on the economic loss resulting from the decreased productive capacity of his or her farm. It would not be based on the price of the water.

Unfortunately, the false perceptions regarding the water rights provisions of the Private Property Rights Act have been given undeserved credence by recent articles in the Wall Street Journal. I have written to the editor of this newspaper to point out the errors. Mr. Speaker, I ask that a copy of my letter to the editor of the Wall Street Journal be printed in the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 14, 1995.

Mr. ROBERT L. BARTLEY,
Editor, *The Wall Street Journal*, New York, NY.

DEAR EDITOR: As a conservative Republican Member of Congress, I take strong exception to Mr. David Frum's March 13 column "The GOP's Takings Sell Out."

Mr. Frum takes the Republican majority in the House to task for allegedly opting to "break with its free-market convictions" by including water rights provisions in the Private Property Rights Act, which passed the House on March 3.

Mr. Frum completely misstates both the intent and effect of the Private Property Rights Act when he asserts that it "requires the federal government to compensate Western Farmers and miners should it ever be tempted to ask them to pay the market price for water they take from federal irrigation projects."

The provision has nothing to do with the price of water.

Mr. Frum is absolutely correct that "the removal of a subsidy is not an abridgment of a property right." The Private Property Rights Act does not protect water subsidies. What it does do is allow landowners to be compensated for economic loss when their "right to use or receive water" is abridged by the federal government.

The water provisions of the legislation are specifically intended to ensure that Western farmers can apply for compensation when the value of their property is significantly diminished by a federal action that denies them the water that they are entitled to receive (with or without a subsidy) under state

law or a binding contract with the federal government.

Farmland in the arid West isn't worth much without water. When a farmer's water supply is reduced or eliminated, the productive capacity—the value—of his or her property is reduced or eliminated. Throughout the West, the Endangered Species Act and more recent water project "reform" laws are being used by federal bureaucrats to deny water to agriculture. This is particularly true in my state of California.

The Republican majority in Congress is not abandoning its free-market convictions in the water policy arena. In fact, many of us believe that the federal government should get out of the water delivery business altogether by selling or transferring its water projects to local public agencies.

We would welcome Mr. Frum's thoughts on that endeavor, provided he gets his facts straight first.

Respectfully,

GEORGE P. RADANOVICH,
Member of Congress (R-CA-19th).

TRIBUTE TO HAZEL A. YOUNGER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Hazel A. Younger, a native New Yorker. She was born in Coney Island Hospital.

Hazel is particularly close to her family and feels that her strength comes from her Lord, and the encouragement offered by her mother, Mrs. Ella Garner, and her three sisters, Friedna, Edna, and Connie. Hazel is also the very proud mother of one son, Travis.

Hazel began her education with the goal of being a lawyer. However, midway during her studies, she developed a fascination with numbers and accounting became her career.

Presently, retired, Hazel serves as president of the board of directors of the cooperative in which she lives, P.E. Gorman Houses. She is a member of the Brookdale Hospital Ambulatory Care Services Community Advisory Board and Community Board 16. Hazel is also co-chairperson of Concerned Citizens of the 58th assembly district.

Because of her experience and eloquence, Hazel is often asked to speak at churches, community meetings, and A.A.R.P. chapters. She is known to be an articulate representative of the community, with direct access to local elected officials. I am pleased to commend Ms. Younger to the attention of my colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD E. HALL

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Ron Hall, who retired in April of this year as president and chief executive officer of CITGO Petroleum Corp. Ron has been president and CEO of CITGO for the last 10 years and retires with the respect and esteem of all who have known him.

A native of Illinois, Ron received a B.S. from Bradley University, and an MBA from Colum-

bia University. Southern Illinois University's College of Business and Administration awarded its first doctor of commercial science honorary degree to Ron in May 1988. Additionally, Ron is a member of the Bradley University Board of Trustees as well as a member of the University's College of Business Administration's National Council of Advisors.

In addition to Ron's professional and educational accomplishments, he always found time and energy to take part in civic and charitable activities in Tulsa, OK, such as serving as director of the Gilgrease Museum Association and of St. Francis Hospital, advisory director of the Tulsa Ballet Theatre and as a director of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

During Ron's tenure as president and CEO, CITGO has become a recognized leader in environmental stewardship, and through its corporate sponsorship of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the lives of millions of people have been made better. CITGO is truly helping to make a difference in such areas as Tulsa, Corpus Christi, and Lake Charles with its active participation in the Adopt-a-School and Partners in Education programs.

CITGO may be losing a president and CEO but his lovely wife Jean will be gaining a ranch foreman down in Brenham, TX. I'm sure Ron will be looking forward to spending more time with Jean and their grandchildren. There's no doubt that once he has had his fill of bird hunting and fly fishing, we will see him involved with the community in some capacity. I do not believe a person of his energy and public spirit can stay away.

A SALUTE TO ANDY GUEST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on April 25, 1995, in beautiful Warren County, Virginia, near the town of Front Royal, a group of Virginia's leaders headed by Governor George F. Allen gathered to dedicate a new State park in honor of House of Delegate member Raymond R. Guest, Jr.

"Andy" Guest attended the dedication in his honor at the park which will provide several miles of riverfront recreational area along the Shenandoah River. Having just won a 2-year battle over cancer and poised to return for another term to the General Assembly where he has served since 1973, Andy was cited for his hard work and many years of leadership on behalf of Virginia State parks and recreational activities.

Andy Guest has done so much to preserve this region which is the core of Civil War battlefields and the very heart of American history. When he is not in Richmond representing the people of Virginia's 15th House of Delegates district, Andy continues to live on his family farm near the banks of the famous Shenandoah River where he grew up. Nothing could be more appropriate and no recognition could be more deserved than to name a beautiful piece of Virginia along the serene but majestic Shenandoah River after one of Virginia's own first citizens: Raymond R. "Andy" Guest.